

**Claims**

1. The use of hyaluronic acid in crosslinked form for the production of a composition for preventing or treating inflammatory skin or mucous membrane diseases.
2. The use as claimed in claim 1,  
**characterized in that**  
a composition for local administration is produced.
3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2,  
**characterized in that**  
a composition for intradermal administration, for administration to the border of the dermoepithelial transition or for topical administration is produced.
4. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3,  
**characterized in that**  
the degree of crosslinking is in the range from 0.1% to 10%.
5. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4,  
**characterized in that**  
the crosslinked hyaluronic acid is present in a mixture with uncrosslinked hyaluronic acid.
6. The use as claimed in claim 5,  
**characterized in that**  
the uncrosslinked hyaluronic acid is selected from
  - (i) long-chain hyaluronic acid having an average molecular weight (weight-average) of at least 200 kD and
  - (ii) short-chain hyaluronic acid having an average molecular weight (weight-average) up to 50 kD or mixtures thereof.

7. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6,  
**characterized in that**  
the composition furthermore contains an inhibitor of  
hyaluronic acid degradation.

8. The use as claimed in claim 9,  
**characterized in that**  
the inhibitor of hyaluronic acid degradation is  
selected from heparin, indomethacin, salicylates, free  
radical traps, such as vitamin A, C or E, and mixtures  
thereof.

9. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8,  
**characterized in that**  
the hyaluronic acid is present as an injectable  
preparation, ointment, cream, lotion, gel, spray,  
tincture, shampoo, occlusive film, powder or inhalable  
preparation.

10. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9,  
**characterized in that**  
the composition furthermore contains another  
glycosaminoglycan in crosslinked or uncrosslinked form.

11. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10,  
**characterized in that**  
the inflammatory skin or mucous membrane disease is  
selected from atopic dermatitis, eczemas, such as  
seborrheic and microbial eczemas, pruritus, prurigo,  
urticaria, red lichen, psoriasis, such as psoriasis  
vulgaris, vitiligo, viral skin diseases which lead to  
wart formation, such as verruca vulgaris or Condylomata  
acuminata, rosacea, perioral dermatitis, acne, such as  
acne vulgaris or acne conglobata, polypous mucous  
membrane diseases, such as nasal polyposis, and  
inflammatory intestinal diseases, chronic or acute  
ulcerations of the skin, aphthae and mycoses.

12. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11 in human medicine.

13. The use as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11 in veterinary medicine.

14. A process for preventing or treating and inflammatory skin or mucous membrane disease,  
**characterized in that**

a preparation is administered to a subject to be treated, which contains hyaluronic acid in crosslinked form in an amount adequate for treating the disease.

15. The use of hyaluronic acid in crosslinked form for the production of a composition for preventing or treating inflammatory diseases of the eye.

16. The use as claimed in claim 15 for preventing or treating inflammatory diseases of the conjunctiva or cornea.

17. The use as claimed in claim 15 or 16 for preventing or treating after-cataract or inflammation of the conjunctiva.

18. The use as claimed in one of claims 15 to 17,  
**characterized in that**  
the crosslinked hyaluronic acid is present in a mixture with uncrosslinked hyaluronic acid.

19. The use as claimed in one of claims 15 to 18,  
**characterized in that**  
the composition furthermore contains another glycosaminoglycan in crosslinked or uncrosslinked form.

20. The use of a mixture of crosslinked and un-

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crosslinked hyaluronic acid for the production of a cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition for treating skin or soft tissue defects and skin wrinkles.

21. The use as claimed in claim 20,  
**characterized in that**  
the composition furthermore contains another glycos-  
aminoglycan in crosslinked or uncrosslinked form.